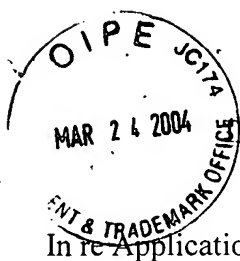


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

NORTON, et al.

Application No.: 10/069,946

Filed: July 19, 2002

For: RECOVERY OF PRECIOUS METAL
FROM SULPHIDE MINERALS BY
BIOLEACHING

)
) Atty. Docket No. P.19482/MAJR
)
)
) Examiner: Andrews, Melvyn J.
)
) Art Unit: 1742
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Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above identified application.

- (X) No additional fee is required.
() An extension of a shortened statutory time for response under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is requested.
() A verified statement under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27.
() is enclosed.
() is of record in this application.

| CLAIMS AS AMENDED | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| | Claims Remaining after Amend. | Highest Number Paid For | Extra | RATE | | Amount |
| | | | | Large Entity | Small Entity | |
| No. of Claims in Excess of 20 | | | | 18.00 | 9.00 | |
| Independent Claims in Excess of 3 | | | | 86.00 | 43.00 | |
| First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims | | | | 290.00 | 145.00 | |
| Extension Fee | | | | | | |
| () One month | | | | 110.00 | 55.00 | |
| () Two Months | | | | 420.00 | 210.00 | |
| (x) Three Months | | | | 950.00 | 475.00 | |
| () Four Months | | | | 1,480.00 | 740.00 | |
| () Five Months | | | | 2,010.00 | 1,005.00 | |

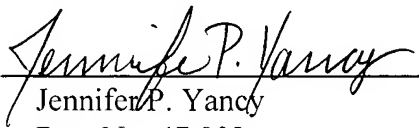
Filing IDS under 1.97(c).....

TOTAL FEE \$

- () A check in the amount of \$___ is attached. (Check No. __)
- () Charge \$_____ to Deposit Account No. 10-1213.
- (X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1213.
- (X) Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- (X) Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.

By: 
Jennifer P. Yancy
Reg. No. 47,003

JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.
P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station
Arlington, Virginia 22202
703-415-1500
Date: March 24, 2004

Case: P.19482/MAJR



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Atty. Docket No. P.19482/MAJR

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action which was mailed on December 24, 2003, please amend
the above-identified application as follows: